

Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL WARSAW 6013

STATE FOR CU/EE AND PASS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE;
MCMILLAN/REP. & FOREIGN VISITORS STAFF;

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PL(BARCIKOWSKI, KAZIMIERZ)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF POLISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

COMMENT ON PROPOSED US-POLISH JOINT

AGRICULTURAL DECLARATION

REF: WARSAW 5880

1. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY POTENTIALLY
CONTROVERSIAL PARTS OF THE POLISH DRAFT OF A JOINT
DECLARATION OR PRESS RELEASE BY MINISTER BARCIKOWSKI
AND SECRETARY BUTZ ARE THOSE INVOLVING: A) CCC CREDITS;
AND B) A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT.

2. THE MANNER IN WHICH CCC CREDITS IS HANDLED DOES NOT
CAUSE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM, SINCE BOTH CASH AND CCC
PURCHASES ARE MENTIONED. THE POLES HAVE REGULARLY
RECEIVED LIMITED AMOUNTS OF CCC CREDIT AND THERE IS
NOTHING IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION TO INDICATE THAT THE
AMOUNTS OF SUCH CREDITS WILL NECESSARILY GET LARGER OR
EVEN REMAIN THE SAME AS IN THE PAST.

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3. THE POLES HAVE LONG WANTED A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON
AGRICULTURE WITH THE U.S. AND WE HAVE RESISTED THEIR

APPROACHES. THIS SEEMS THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO CHANGE THAT POLICY AND TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH POLAND WHICH IS OUR OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE CUSTOMER IN EASTERN EUROPE.

4. IN THE TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL FIELDS THE POLES HAVE SIGNED NUMBEROUS LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS WITH MANY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AT FIRST THESE COUNTRIES RESISTED NEGOTIATING SUCH AGREEMENTS, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY LEARNED THAT THE POLIES WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE VERY LOOSELY WORDED AND WHICH HAD NO BINDING EFFECT. WE BELIEVE THE POLES WOULD NOT ONLY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH A LOOSELY-WORDED, LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH US, BUT WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO GET IT.

5. THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT WE ATTEMPT TO SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR THE TWO PARAGRAPHS IN THE POLISH DRAFT ON A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT:

QUOTE THE U.S. SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ITS AGRI-CULTURAL DEALINGS WITH POLAND ARE PARTICULARLY CORDIAL AND THAT POLAND HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT, LONG-TERM PURCHASER OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. FURTHERMORE, IT RECOGNIZED THAT THE U.S. AND POLAND HAVE WORKED TOGETHER CLOSELY IN ESTIMATING FUTURE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROJECTIONS. IN VIEW OF THIS LONG-TERM, MUTUALLY-ADVANTAGEOUS RELATIONSHIP, THE U.S. AND POLISH SIDES HAVE DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO REACH A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HELP STABILIZE THEIR AGRICULTURAL TRADE RELATIONS.

UNQUOTE.

DAVIES

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